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3. *The ligulate Wolffias of the United States*, by CHARLES HENRY THOMPSON. Under this title reference is made to the subgenus *Wolffiella*, which the author is inclined to believe is a distinct genus intermediate between *Wolffia* proper and *Lemna*, but unfortunately it has never been known to produce flowers. Only one form has been credited to the United States, and that a variety of the Mexican *W. gladiata*, known only from the subtropical region of Florida. Mr. Thompson found it among the collections of Bush, made in the swampy region of southeastern Missouri, and has also discovered the Mexican *W. lingulata* in California, growing in an irrigation canal near Bakersfield. A careful account of these two forms is given, illustrated by three plates.—J. M. C.

A popular work on ecology.

UNDER the somewhat uncertain name of *The Great World's Farm*, a valuable and delightful work has been written by Selina Gaye.² The title was suggested by a passage in Professor Drummond's account of untrodden Africa, and refers to the way in which plants establish themselves and flourish unattended by man.

The subjects treated are the natural methods of soil formation, water and food elements in soil and air, the action of leaves and roots, flowers and their pollination, the distribution of seeds, friends and foes, the chances of life, changes due to man, and similar matters.

This enumeration of subjects does not, however, give any suggestion of the great diversity of topics and the extraordinary array of facts which have been brought together. The work is written from the most modern point of view, and although dealing with scientific matters, technical terms have been so skilfully avoided, that any well informed person may read the book with enjoyment, without possessing previous knowledge of the subject, or of its terminology. The volume also contains much about worms, insects, birds and other animals in connection with the account of vegetation. There are so few lapses from full scientific accuracy that they may be ignored by both reviewer and reader. Some of the historical statements may be taken with a grain of incredulity, such as the story of the Persians keeping pollen of the date for nineteen years during a civil war in order to secure a crop of fruit at its close, yet they are currently accepted and serve to accentuate general truths.

The book is well printed and the illustrations, mostly full page plates, are especially commendable. Altogether the work forms a compact volume of entertaining and instructive information, and can be heartily recommended to the lover of nature whether dilettante or earnest student.—J. C. A.

²GAYE, SELINA.—The great world's farm; some account of nature's crops and how they are grown. With a preface by G. S. Boulger. 8vo. pp. x + 365. Illustrated. London: Seeley & Co. 1893. Chicago: The Macmillan Co. \$1.50.